

Application No.: 09/656,264

Docket No.: 99-469

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction between:

Group I. Claims 1-30, 53, and 54, drawn to an automated directory assistance using speech recognition, classified in class 704, subclass 277; and

Group II. Claims 31-52, drawn to using grammar structures in an automated directory assistance, classified in class 704, subclass 9.

Based on review of the claims, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-30, 53, and 54), with traverse. In view of the significant overlap between the subject matter of the claims of Group I and Group II, and the shared class (class 704) of the claims of Group I and Group II, it is respectfully submitted that a thorough search for the subject matter of Group I would encompass a search for the subject matter of Group II. See MPEP §803, which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to this communication, he is kindly urged to call the undersigned.

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Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 07-2347, under Order No. 99-469 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged against the aforementioned account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 20, 2004

By



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